

Christ Church
Columbus & Cameron Sts.
Alexandria, Va.

HABS No. VA. 479

HABS

VA.

7- ALEX,

2-

**ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...**

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Washington, D.C.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos H. Smith, District Officer
1707 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

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Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal)
Columbus and Cameron Sts.
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-479

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GENERAL STATEMENT: Belonging to the Alexandria-Fairfax Church Group, based on plan of James Wren, local architect and builder.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION - EXTERIOR

Orientation: Traditionally placed with long axis East and West.

Number of Stories: One story with balcony along three sides - Brick with hip roof - tower later).

Foundation: Made of field or quarry stone, probably from Great Falls - brick above with moulded watertable - ventilating slots.

Wall construction: Walls are of flemish bond with Aquia Stone trim.

Openings - doorways and doors: Pair of rusticated front doorways with triangular pediments, following designs of James Gibbs or Batty Langley.

Windows and shutters: Two tiers of windows, round arched above, flat below - old style sash - solid shutters on Cameron St., inside louvered blinds there and outside ones elsewhere - notable Palladian window at East end.

Roof - shape - covering: Hip roof, originally shingled, now covered with slate. Trusses with king post.

Cornice, eaves: Modillion cornice

Dormers: None

Chimneys: Pair added in 1812 but eliminated when modern heating system was installed outside the building.

INTERIOR

Floor Plan: Double aisles with pews sides and center. See Plan Of Pohick Church for retrospective glimpse of arrangements before construction of gallery.

Stairways: Now in tower, location of earlier stairs unknow.

Floor: Modern flagstones in aisles - flooring boards elsewhere - levels probably changed (Observe bottom rail of entrance doors).

Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster - cove ceiling.

Doorways and doors: Raised panels, two to pew doors - front doors two leaves, four panels each.

Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal)
Columbus and Cameron Sts.
Alexandria, Virginia

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Trim: Simple and refined, with elaboration centered at east end on pulpit, altarpiece, and Palladian window.

Hardware: Interesting hardware of varying types and periods.

Lighting: Electric fixtures - candelabra also used. Chandelier introduced in 1817 and hung in center of ceiling - later removed to ceiling of rear balcony.

Heating: Central heat with furnace in another building. At a recent period there was a cellar developed under the church.

OTHER

General setting: When built Church stood outside the town-Washington, Cameron and Columbus Sts., are Post-Revolutionary developments.

Enclosures: Brick piers and wrought iron panels with gateways on Washington and Columbus Sts.

Outbuildings: Old and new Parish Buildings.

Walks: Brick-running flat and basketweave.

Landscaping: Graveyard contains many old trees, interesting tombstones and memorials. Burials were restricted after 1807.

HISTORICAL DATA

Original and subsequent owners: Land donated by John Alexander of Stafford County, one of city founders and member of the family for which the site was named.

Date of erection: Started 1765 and accepted by the vestry on February 27, 1773 as "finished in workmanlike order".

Architect: James Wren of Fairfax County, member of the Congregation at Falls Church.

Builder, suppliers, etc.: James Parsons agreed to build the Church for £600 Sterling, but failed to fulfill his contract in 1772. It was completed under the direction of John Carlyle for an additional £220. James Wren was paid £8 for lettering the tablets.

Christ Church (Protestant Episcopal)
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Sources of Information: Alexandria Library, File Christ Church
Conger, Clement E., "Christ Church, Alexandria, Va. Observes
175th Anniversary", The Southern Churchman (March 6, 1948).
Fitzpatrick, John C. (ed), Diaries of George Washington, New
York, 1927, 4 vols. Mathews, James T., Jr., The Romance of
Old Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, Alexandria, Va.,
1926. Moore, Gay Montague, Seaport in Virginia: George Washington's
Alexandria, Richmond, 1949, Chapter 10. Meade, Bishop Williams,
Old Churches and Families in Virginia, Philadelphia, 1906,
2 vols., passim. Slaughter, Philip, The History of Truro Parish
in Virginia, Philadelphia, 1907. Truro Parish Vestry Book.
(Photostat copy in Library of Congress). Washington Papers
(Manuscripts in Library of Congress).

Sources to be investigated: Fairfax Parish Vestry Books, Christ
Church Vestry Books.

Historical Associations: Original dimensions proposed 40' x 60'
but the building was enlarged to approximately 50' x 60' thus
admitting additional pews, which were accordingly sold to meet
the increased expenditures. George Washington purchased No. 5
for £ 36/10s. the highest price paid After the Revolution he a
attended the Church more or less regularly until his death.
Rev. Thomas Davis who was rector in 1799 conducted the funeral
services at Mount Vernon.

Washington's intimate relationships with Christ Church are set
forth in an address made by the Rev. Philip Slaughter in 1889
(Address on the Centennial Anniversary of Washington's
Inaguration), published the same year and now a rarity in the
Library of Congress.

One of the treasured relics in the Church is the family Bible
of Washington, presented by the General's ward, George Washington
Park Custis, of "Arlington" in 1804.

Washington's pew may be seen today restored to its original square
form. Across the aisle from it is the pew occupied by General
Robert E. Lee who from boyhood attended the Church was confirmed
here.

Prepared by Walter D. Bailey Date 12/9/58
HABS Architect

Approved by Orin Sutton Date 12/18/58
Chief Architect

ADDENDUM
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Original plans, construction, etc.: See reproduction of Plan attached. Specifications for building printed as Appendix Bin Lewis A. Coffin, Jr., and Arthur Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia, N.Y., 1919.

A Chronology of Development:

- 1773 - Completed
- 1785 - Gallery added
- 1793 - First organ acquired, at least Washington contributed toward the purchase of one.
- 1809 - Order passed for alteration of altar, contract for new roof.
- 1810 - New organ acquired. Query: Does this relate to the subscription taken seventeen years before?
- 1811 - West aisle added.
- 1813 - First called Christ Church, having been known previously as "Old Episcopal Church".
- 1816 - 17 - Some pews divided
- 1821 - Other pews divided
- 1816 - Bell purchased
- 1818 - Tower and belfry added
- 1821 - Remainder of pews divided
- 1834 - Vestry Room built
- 1836 - Cameron St., cut through north end of churchyard
- 1840 - New Organ acquired
- 1853 - Pews again altered and porch added

Addendum to
Christ Church (Episcopal)
Columbus and Cameron Streets
Alexandria (independent city)
Virginia

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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Addendum to:
CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)
Columbus and Cameron Streets
Alexandria
Virginia

HABS No. VA-479

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Addendum to:
CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)
Columbus and Cameron Streets
Alexandria
Virginia

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Data pages 1 through 4 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 5.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

- 18 5" x 7" glass plate negatives produced circa 1959.
Photographer unknown.

No survey control contact prints; no survey control
information; few apparent pairs.

LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-10L	WEST ELEVATION, INCLUDING TOWER (Slight double exposure)
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-10R *	WEST ELEVATION, INCLUDING TOWER Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-11	FRONT ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-12L *	SOUTH ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-12R	SOUTH ELEVATION Left and right overlap: 100%

CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)
HABS No. VA-479
Data (Page 6)

LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-13L *	NORTH ELEVATION, CENTER
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-13R	NORTH ELEVATION, CENTER
	Left and right overlap: 75%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-14L *	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-14R	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW (Overexposed)
	Left and right overlap: 70%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-15L *	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-15R	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW
	Left and right overlap: 65%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-15 (extra)	EAST ELEVATION WINDOW (Slightly out of focus)
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-16L *	SOUTH ELEVATION, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-16R	SOUTH ELEVATION, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER
	Left and right overlap: 50%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-17L *	NORTH ELEVATION, WEST END, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-17R	NORTH ELEVATION, WEST END, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER
	Left and right overlap: 65%
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-18	EAST ELEVATION (Double exposure)
LC-HABS-GS05-U-1959-19 *	NORTH ELEVATION, EAST END

15 9.5" x 9.5" glass plates with 5" x 7" diapositive images
corresponding to the above plates.

LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-10L	WEST ELEVATION, INCLUDING TOWER (Slight double exposure)
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-10R	WEST ELEVATION, INCLUDING TOWER Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-11	FRONT ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-12L	SOUTH ELEVATION
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-12R	SOUTH ELEVATION Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-13L	NORTH ELEVATION, CENTER
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-13R	NORTH ELEVATION, CENTER Left and right overlap: 60%
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-14L	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-14R	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW Left and right overlap: 100%
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-15R	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-15 (extra)	EAST ELEVATION--TRIPARTITE WINDOW Left and right overlap: 75%
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-16L	SOUTH ELEVATION, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER
LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-16R	SOUTH ELEVATION, INCLUDING BASE OF TOWER Left and right overlap: 50%

LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-17L

NORTH ELEVATION, WEST END, INCLUDING BASE OF
TOWER

LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-17R

NORTH ELEVATION, WEST END, INCLUDING BASE OF
TOWER

Left and right overlap: 75%

LC-HABS-GS01-U-1959-19

NORTH ELEVATION, EAST END

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

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